The Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers / L'Association canadienne des professeurs de langues secondes

CASLT/ACPLS

**CASLT encourages teachers and students to participate in the activities of *Les Rendez-vous de la Francophonie*.**

**Ottawa, Ontario, March 14, 2005.** The Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT) joins its partners as an active voice in celebrating the International Day of La Francophonie on March 20th, an event that is recognized throughout the five continents of the world.

As part of the events leading up to March 20th, Les Rendez-vous de la Francophonie, co-ordinated by La Fondation Dialogue, promotes the importance of French in our lives, and is back for its seventh consecutive year with two weeks of cultural events and activities across Canada.

This year, CASLT has developed a teacher support document to encourage core French teachers and students to participate in French Week activities as part of Les Rendez-vous events in schools and local communities. These activities are as diverse as sharing a traditional French meal with friends and identifying French words that have influenced the English language along with classroom activities centred on our thriving French culture.

Although CASLT's promotion of second language education is on-going, events such as the International Day of the Francophonie and French Week provide a platform for promoting a greater appreciation of French language to all francophiles learning the language.

Carolyn King, CASLT President, congratulates the organizers of Les Rendez-vous and says, "This is an important time in our calendar as we recognize the diversity of our two cultures and the central role that the French language plays in Canadian society."

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Contact:

**The Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers www.caslt.org**

Spokesperson:

Carolyn King, CASLT President (bilingual) (403) 613-6464

**Les Rendez-vous de Francophonie www.rvf.ca**

Spokespersons:

Laurent Vanderputte, National Coordinator (613) 241-6055

Guy Matte, President, Fondation Dialogue

Prepared by: Helen Rossiter (613) 230-6159